

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

based on the first name and a database of organism names, determining a second
5 name that specifies the organism, the second name representing a link between pieces of
biological identification information in the database; and

based on the second name, identifying information associated with the organism.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the database of organism names includes a
distributed database, and the method further comprises:

10 submitting the first name to a portion of the distributed database; and

receiving the second name from the portion of the distributed database.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allowing a first portion of the database to be administered by a first administrator
and a second portion of the database to be administered by a second administrator.

15 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a classification for the first name; and

based on the classification, submitting the first name to a portion of the database.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names
includes a trinomen.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names
includes a polynomen.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names
includes a modern name.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names includes a non-modern name.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names includes a scientific name.

5 10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second names includes a non-scientific name.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the first name; and

based on the request, selecting a database access layer to receive the request.

10 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the first name; and

directing the request to an application layer for serving client functions.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the first name; and

15 directing the request to a data layer to determine a unique identifier associated with the organism.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a textual description associated with the organism.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20 identifying an illustration associated with the organism.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a multimedia data object associated with the organism.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a data pointer associated with the organism.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

basing the identification of the information on a defined domain of information.

19. A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a name that specifies an organism;

based on the name and a database of organism classifications, determining a classification for the organism; and

based on the classification, identifying information associated with the organism.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

determining a biological classification for the organism.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

determining a geographical classification for the organism.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

determining a non-biological classification for the organism.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

identifying information associated with another organism that belongs to the classification.

24. A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a first name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to use the first name and a database of organism names to help determine a second name that specifies the organism; and

an identifier configured to use the second name to help identify information associated with the organism.

25. A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to use the name and a database of classifications to help determine a classification for the organism; and

an identifier configured to use the classification to help identify information associated with the organism.

26. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

identify a first name that specifies an organism;

based on the first name and a database of organism names, determine a second name that specifies the organism; and

based on the second name, identify information associated with the organism.

27. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

identify a name that specifies an organism;

based on the name and a database of organism classifications, determine a classification for the organism; and

based on the classification, identify information associated with the organism.

28. A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

based on the first name and a database of organism names, determining a second name that specifies the organism; and

5 deriving, from the second name and original search parameters based on the first name, revised search parameters.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the revised search parameters correspond to a different search scope than the original search parameters.

30. A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a name that specifies an organism;

10 based on the name and a database of organism classifications, determining a classification for the organism; and

deriving, from the classification and original search parameters based on the name, revised search parameters.

15 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the revised search parameters correspond to a different search scope than the original search parameters.

32. A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

determining that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

20 identifying a first taxonomic identifier of the name entry;

determining that the first taxonomic identifier is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

identifying a second taxonomic identifier of the classification entry; and

based on the second taxonomic identifier, identifying a second name.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising:

deriving, based on the second name and original search parameters based on the first name, revised search parameters.

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34. A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a first name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to determine, based on the first name and a database of organism names, a second name that specifies the organism; and

a deriver configured to derive, from the second name and original search parameters based on the first name, revised search parameters.

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35. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

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identify a first name that specifies an organism;

determine, based on the first name and a database of organism names, a second name that specifies the organism; and

derive, from the second name and original search parameters based on the first name, revised search parameters.

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36. A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to determine, based on the name and a database of organism classifications, a classification for the organism; and

a deriver configured to derive, from the classification and original search parameters based on the name, revised search parameters.

37. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

identify a name that specifies an organism;

determine, based on the name and a database of organism classifications, a classification for the organism; and

derive, from the classification and original search parameters based on the name, revised search parameters.

38. A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a first name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to determine that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

an identifier configured to identify a first taxonomic ID of the name entry;

another determiner configured to determine that the first taxonomic ID is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

a second identifier configured to identify a second taxonomic ID of the classification entry; and

a third identifier configured to identify, based on the second taxonomic ID, a second name.

39. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

5 identify a first name that specifies an organism;

determine that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

identify a first taxonomic ID of the name entry;

10 determine that the first taxonomic ID is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

identify a second taxonomic ID of the classification entry; and

identify, based on the second taxonomic ID, a second name.

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